

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (original) An aqueous coating composition with an improved open time comprising:

a) 1 to 35 wt % of a crosslinkable water-dispersible oligomer(s);
b) 4 to 50 wt % of a dispersed polymer(s);
c) 3 to 75 wt % of a pigment(s) with an oil absorption number ≤ 25 g oil / 100g pigment;

d) 0 to 10 wt % of a Newtonian-like thickener(s);

e) 0 to 10 wt % of a thixotropic thickener(s);

f) 0 to 20 wt % of co-solvent;

g) 10 to 80 wt % of water;

where $a) + b) + c) + d) + e) + f) + g) = 100\%$;

wherein the weight ratio of a) : b) is in the range of from 10:90 to 60:40; wherein $d) + e) = 0.1$ to 10 wt % and wherein said composition when drying to form a coating has a tack-free time of ≤ 24 hours.

2. (currently amended) An aqueous composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the crosslinkable oligomer(s) is a self-crosslinkable oligomer(s).

3. (currently amended) An aqueous composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the crosslinkable oligomer(s) is selected from a group consisting of polyurethane oligomer(s), vinyl oligomer(s), polyamide oligomer(s), polyether oligomer(s), polysiloxane oligomer(s), polyester oligomer(s), hyperbranched oligomer(s) and/or mixtures thereof.

4. (currently amended) An aqueous composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the crosslinkable oligomer(s) has an acid value in the range of from 0 to 80 mg KOH/g.

5. (currently amended) An aqueous composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the crosslinkable oligomer(s) has a measured weight average molecular weight in the range of from 1,000 to 100,000 Daltons.

6. (currently amended) An aqueous composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the crosslinkable ~~oligomer(s)~~ oligomer(s) is less than 70% by weight soluble in water throughout a pH range of from 2 to 10.

7. (currently amended) An aqueous composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the crosslinkable oligomer(s) has a measured Tg in the range of from -120 to 250°C.

8. (currently amended) An aqueous composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the dispersed polymer(s) has a measured weight average molecular weight $\geq 110,000$ Daltons.

9. (currently amended) An aqueous composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the dispersed polymer(s) has an average particle size in the range of from 25 to 1000 nm.

10. (currently amended) An aqueous composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the dispersed polymer(s) has a measured Tg in the range of from -50 to 300°C.

11. (currently amended) An aqueous composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the dispersed polymer(s) is a vinyl polymer.

12. (original) An aqueous composition according to claim 11 wherein the dispersed vinyl polymer has 10 to 50 wt % of a soft part with a measured Tg in the range of from -30 to 20°C and 50 to 90 wt % of a hard part with a measured Tg in the range of from 60 to 110°C.

13. (currently amended) An aqueous composition according to ~~any one of claims 11 or 12~~ claim 11 wherein the dispersed vinyl polymer(s) comprises:

- I. 15 to 80 wt % of styrene and/or α -methylstyrene;
- II. 0 to 50 wt % of one or more of methyl (meth)acrylate, ethyl (meth)acrylate, cyclohexyl (meth)acrylate and n-butyl (meth)acrylate;
- III. 0 to 7 wt % of a vinyl monomer(s) containing a carboxylic acid group(s);
- IV. 0 to 10 wt % of a vinyl monomer(s) containing a non-ionic water-dispersing group(s);
- V. 5 to 40 wt % of a vinyl monomer(s) other than as in I to IV, VI and VII ;
- VI. 0 to 5 wt % of a vinyl monomer(s) containing wet adhesion promoter or crosslinker groups (excluding any within the scope of III and VII); and
- VII. 0 to 8 wt % of a polyethylenically unsaturated vinyl monomer, wherein I) + II) add up to at least 50% and I + II + III + IV + V + VI + VII add up to 100%.

14. (currently amended) An aqueous composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the pigment volume concentration is in the range of from 1 to 48 wt %.

15. (currently amended) An aqueous composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the pigment(s) has a water absorption number ≤ 40 cm³ / 100g pigment.

16. (currently amended) An aqueous composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the composition comprises 0.1 to 10 wt% of d) the Newtonian-like thickener.

17. (currently amended) An aqueous composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the composition comprises 0.1 to 10 wt% of e) the thixotropic thickener.

18. (currently amended) An aqueous composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the ratio of Newtonian-like to thixotropic thickener is in the range of from 95:5 to 30:70.

19. (currently amended) An aqueous composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the co-solvent to water ratio is below 0.8.

20. (currently amended) An aqueous composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the improved open time is at least 3 minutes longer than a reference formulation.

21. (currently amended) An aqueous composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the open time is at least 9 minutes.

22. (currently amended) An aqueous composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein said composition has an equilibrium viscosity ≤ 500 Pa.s, during the first 10 minutes of drying when measured using any shear rate in the range of from 0.01 ± 0.005 to $900 \pm 5 \text{ s}^{-1}$ and at $23 \pm 2^\circ\text{C}$.

23. (currently amended) An aqueous composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1 wherein the shear ratio of the composition is in the range of from 1 to 20 at a shear rate of 10 s^{-1} and $1,000 \text{ s}^{-1}$

24. (currently amended) A coating obtainable from an aqueous composition according to ~~any one of the preceding claims~~ claim 1.

25. (currently amended) A method for coating a substrate using an aqueous composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 23~~ claim 1.

26. (currently amended) A substrate coated with an aqueous composition according to ~~any one of claims 1 to 23~~ claim 1.